

FAITH FORMATION AT HOME - FAMILIES WITH TEENS

BRIEF FAITH ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME.

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vibrantfaith

Whats a Dad to Do?

By Lee Yates

When someone hears the words father or dad, different images arise. There are some common images shaped by television and the surrounding culture, but each person has his or her own idea of what a dad is. There are places in the Bible that refer to God as Father. Explore the expectations you place on the words dad and father.

Needed: Bible, What's A Dad to Do Questions, paper and pens or pencils

Prepare in Advance: Mark your Bible at John 14:1-7. Have What's A Dad to Do questions out.

PRAY:

Gather the family and begin with a short prayer. Here are some words if you need them: *God, you are often called Father in our Scriptures. Open our minds and hearts as we explore what it means to be a dad or father. Amen.*

ACTIVITY:

Read the questions below and have everyone write their responses. Allow time for each person to finish their thoughts. Ask each person to share a little about what they wrote.

Discuss:

- What things written on the worksheets surprised you? Why?
- What are the commonalities in our answers? Why might this be so?
- What are the differences in our answers? Why might this be so?
- In what ways might expectations placed on fathers in our culture be unhealthy or unhelpful?

READ SCRIPTURE:

Ask someone to read aloud John 14:1-7 from your Bible

Discuss:

- How do your experiences, good or bad, with your father have an impact on your relationship with God?
- How might your relationship with your own father shape your relationship with God?
- How might our thoughts about God as Father shape our expectations of earthly fathers?
- How comfortable are you using the name Father when praying to God?
- Why do you think Father is such a commonly used name and image for God?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Close your time by praying together the Lord's Prayer. Use the words your family or your church usually uses or the words below: *Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

What's A Dad to Do? Questions:

What are the most common characteristics or qualities of a good dad or father?

What chores or tasks do you think are mainly the responsibility of a dad or father?

Who is the person you think of when you hear the words dad or father?

What are the most important things you have learned from this person?

To what extent do you think cultural understandings and expectations of a dad or father have changed over the years? How so?

ADULTS ONLY: As a parent, what have you done differently from the father figures in your own life? Why?

YOUTH ONLY: When you have children of your own, what might you do differently from the father figures in your own life? Why?